



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CHIROPRACTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO HEALTH CARE FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Ella Ladd**, 45, Stillwell, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on March 15, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil to one count of health care fraud and one count of forfeiture.

Melgren said that Ladd admitted at her plea that from January 2000 through April 2003, while a chiropractor licensed in the State of Kansas, doing business as Synergistic Medical Care, P.A., with offices in Overland Park, Kansas, she willfully executed a scheme to defraud health care benefit programs by billing personal training at a gym as physical therapy and by billing as though a Doctor of Osteopathy was performing services when a Doctor of Osteopathy was not present to perform services. Ladd further admitted that the scheme resulted in a loss of approximately \$29,031 in false billings to a health care benefit program.

Ladd faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for June 7, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway in this prosecution.